ONE WAY GOLDEN TICKET TO HEAVEN

By Sue Ellen Poe

Today, if you took a poll of Christians on the question "What must you do to go to heaven?" you would get a variety of answers. The following are the top ten responses given by believers.

1. Believe in God.
2. By being water baptized.
3. Try my hardest not to sin
4. Become a church member.
5. Quit all my negative behaviors.
6. Do good deeds.
7. Follow the Golden Rule.
8. Dedicate my life to the Lord.
9. Invite Jesus into my heart.
10. Confess my sins and repent.

(Answers taken from midactstracts.org)

Although many of these sound like excellent answers, it may shock you to hear that none of them will grant you a golden ticket to heaven. In fact, even if you could accomplish all ten of them, you would not make it into heaven. Why? Because doing none of these things makes us righteous. It has nothing to do with your abilities, but everything to do with Jesus Christ's actions. There is only one way to heaven, which is believing in the finished work of the cross, not in your own abilities. Still not convinced? Let's see if the Bible confirms this.

1 Corinthians 15

[1]Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have, and by which ye stand [2] by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. [3] For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; [4] and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Ephesians 1

[13] in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

According to the first book of Corinthians, if you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried, and arose on the third day, this is the gospel that saves you. The world will tell you that there are many ways to heaven, but this is simply not true. The Bible is clear that there is only one way, and it is by the blood of Jesus. Ephesians verse thirteen continues on to say that after you hear the gospel of truth (death, burial, and resurrection) and believe what Jesus' blood did for you (with your heart, not just your mind) the Holy Spirit seals you.

Ephesians 1

[7] in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

First, let's clarify what redeemed means. It means being justified or made righteous. So why do we need to be redeemed? Because of Adam's sin, all humans are born with a sin nature. Therefore, all of mankind has sinned and continues to sin. That means from birth, we all have fleshly desires. We are unrighteous, no matter how hard we try. In fact, it only takes one sin to keep you out of heaven. Therefore, your own merits will not get you to heaven.

Romans 5
[12] Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

[19] For as by one man's (Adam) disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous.

Believing in the finished work of the cross cleanses you of all sin and allows you to assume Christ's righteousness. So when the Father looks at us, He only sees

Jesus Christ. The only way for you to be righteous is to take on Christ's righteousness. Just how do you take on His righteousness?

2 Corinthians 5
[21] For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Philippians 3
[9] and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

From the above Scriptures, it's clear that it is not your righteousness, but Christ's that makes a person "heaven worthy". Not one of those top ten answers makes you righteous! Let that sink in! Trying to become righteous by the "top ten" is living by your works, not grace. So, how do you become righteous in God's eyes?

Genesis 9
[4] But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Hebrews 9
[12] neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Ephesians 2
[13] but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Genesis 9:4 states that life is in the blood. Likewise, Hebrews 9:12 further clarifies that it is not the blood of animals that gives life, but the blood of Christ. So it is by Jesus' blood that we have life. Continuing on, it says that He only had to redeem us once for eternity. Likewise, in Ephesians, it confirms that you attain true righteousness that is "heaven worthy" only by His blood. Nothing you physically do or don't do can make you righteous.

Again, how do you receive your golden ticket to heaven? Put your faith in what Christ already did on the cross at Calvary. It's not about what we can do, but it is all about what He has already done.

Colossians 1
[14] in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

The only part that you play is believing and confessing your steadfast faith in the finished work on the cross. It is that simple! Don't taint it by trying to earn it. Once more, receive your golden ticket to heaven by believing in Christ's finished work of the cross. In closing, the following old hymn, "Nothing But The Blood", sums it up better than most could:

Nothing But The Blood

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:
Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

Now by this I'll overcome —
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Now by this I'll reach my

home—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

All my praise for this I bring—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Glory! Glory! This I sing—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,

If you are questioning where you will spend eternity, you can declare this prayer aloud. However, remember it is not the prayer that saves you, but your faith in what Jesus did for you. Proclaim your faith in God and thank Him for providing your salvation through the cross:

> **Confess aloud**: "God, I know that without You, I am lost and deserve Your just punishment. I know that Jesus Christ died in my place, was buried and arose to life again. He accepted the punishment that I deserve. Therefore, by His blood, I am forgiven through faith in Him. God, I place my trust in You and only You for my salvation. Thank You for Your sacrifices, grace, forgiveness, and the gift of eternal life! In Jesus Christ's name, Amen!"

Share your newfound freedom with someone. Seek like-minded believers, Bible studies, and get in the Word of God. For great resources, new believers can visit "Got Eternal Life" at www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

- All verses are from the Authorized King James Version.
- Parentheses are Author's.

"Welcome to MidActs Tracts." *MidActs Tracts*, 10 Apr. 2023, www.midactstracts.org.

"Nothing But The Blood.", Robert Lowry, pub.1876.

"Got Eternal Life." 28 Jan. 2014, www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

www.Biblegateway.com/Authorized King James Version.